



Fort Frederica National Monument

Superintendent's Compendium

Revised December 2015

COMPENDIUM of designations, closures, permit requirements and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority by the Superintendent of Fort Frederica National Monument.

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR) Chapter I, Parts 1 through 7, authorized by Title 54 United States Code, the following regulatory provisions are established for the proper management, protection, government, and public use of those portions of Fort Frederica National Monument under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7.

The closures and restrictions delineated in this compendium do not apply to official/administrative use or applications (36 CFR 1.2(d) and 1.5(a)).

Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, appear in this document as italicized print.

Section 1.6(f) states that a list of activities that require a permit must be maintained. That list appears in this document under 1.6.

This compendium will remain in effect until specifically amended or supplemented by the Superintendent.

Recommended:

Steve Theus, Site Manager
Fort Frederica National Monument

7 Dec. 2015

Date

Approved:

Gary Ingram, Superintendent
Fort Frederica National Monument

7 DEC 2015

Date



Section 1.5 Closures and Public Use Limits

General Areas, Fortifications, Grounds and Structures Closed to the Public:

Section 1.5 - 1 The following facilities and related structures and/or landscapes are closed to all public use and access in accordance with the following conditions:

- (a) All offices, the visitor center and other buildings are closed to all public use except when an employee is on duty at the location and the door, gate or entry to the building is unlocked.
- (b) The Fort operating hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. Hours may vary seasonally, and are dependent on staff availability. Fort Frederica National Monument is closed for visitation on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.
- (c) Bloody Marsh gates are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Bloody Marsh is closed for visitation on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.
- (d) The following areas are closed from sunset to sunrise:

Park facilities including the bulkhead dock area, grounds or landscapes, and those areas beyond posted signs and/or gates.

Determination: *The visitor center, parking lots, roads, and areas listed are intended to be open during specific hours when services can be provided by park staff, including visitor education, visitor protection and resource protection. At times when these services cannot be provided, the National Monument is unable to keep these areas open while still assuring public health and safety, protection of natural and/or cultural resources and the protection of valuable government property. Limiting visitation to day-use only allows the Rangers to provide adequate protection to the resources and facilities during the day without accommodating visitors 24 hours a day. Less restrictive measures would not provide reasonable protection to the public or to the natural and cultural resources or buildings and other property of the government. It also would permit public access into offices and rooms used for administrative purposes, leading to disruption of the work force and less efficient and effective management of the National Monument.*

These closures are necessary to protect the historic fabric and integrity of fortifications and related structures, and to protect the public from areas which have inherent dangers and may be hazardous to



the public in low light situations or when unsupervised by knowledgeable individuals.

Less restrictive measures would permit unsupervised public access into historic areas which are highly susceptible to vandalism or defacement and would allow public access into especially hazardous ruins or historic fort structures which have steep, poorly lit slopes, sheer drop-offs and other inherent dangers.

Operational Area Closure:

Section 1.5 - 2 The following locations are used for operational functions and are closed to the public at all times, except for the delivery of supplies and materials or for other official business.

- (a) Administrative access road and facilities including Park housing, training room/office, and maintenance compound.
- (b) Construction areas within the park, as designated by the posting of signs and hazard areas marked off by ropes or flagging.
- (c) All buildings used for administrative purposes and all offices, rooms and hallways used for administrative purposes are closed to the general public. Persons are exempted from this closure when they are specifically invited into an otherwise closed area by an authorized employee of the park, in order to conduct official business. The Authorized employee may rescind the exception when they believe that the purpose of the visit has been concluded.

Determination: *Locations listed above ((a), (b), (c), are used exclusively for operational and support purposes where heavy machinery, tools, etc. are used and maintained. The closure of these locations is necessary to provide for public health and safety while accomplishing support services necessary for the management of the park. Less restrictive measures prevent the necessary maintenance, upkeep and support required for the management of the National Monument while maintaining adequate public health and safety.*

Intentional Groundings:

Section 1.5 - 3 With the exception of the bulkhead dock, all waters within the boundaries of the National Monument are closed to the intentional grounding of motorized vessels, except in time of emergency, without specific authorization by the Superintendent. An emergency is defined as "a period of time when the captain of a vessel is in immediate danger of losing that vessel".



Determination: *The shoreline along the Monument comprise pristine salt marsh habitat, a dwindling resource both within and without the boundaries of the National Monument. These areas are inhabited by a variety of mollusks, crustaceans and small fish which form the base of the food chain in these coastal waters. The salt marsh interface areas are easily destroyed by the disturbance caused by the actual grounding of vessels, by the increased turbidity produced, and by subsequent salvage activities. Less restrictive measures would permit an activity that is damaging to plants, wildlife and habitat.*

Segway Closure:

Section 1.5 - 4 Use of Segways - Personal Transporters by Park Visitors without disabilities is prohibited.

- (a) Use of Segways by visitors not possessing the America the Beautiful Interagency Access Pass is prohibited within Fort Frederica National Monument. Travel is permitted on park roads and the defined trail system unless otherwise posted.
- (b) Use of Segways by persons with disabilities is permitted subject to the following allowances: within the parking lots, on sidewalks, designated hiking trails and other established footpaths.
- (c) Use of Segways by persons with disabilities is not permitted: indoors, on roadways not specified earlier in this section, off-designated trails, wetlands, on ruins or fortifications, and other sensitive natural and cultural environments.
- (d) Speed may not exceed five miles per hour.
- (e) Segway users must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and cyclists
- (f) Segway users operating in areas only permitted to persons with disabilities must possess the America the Beautiful Interagency Access Pass
- (g) Visitors using Segways must operate in a safe manner to prevent personal injuries and resource damage and are encouraged to wear helmets.

Determination: *Segway Personal Transporters meet the definition of motorized vehicles in Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations and, as such, their use would not be permissible off of established roadways. However, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a law passed by Congress, supersedes the Code of Federal Regulations, and accommodating use of Segways by persons with disabilities under certain situations is consistent with the Act. The rationale for permitting Segway use on*



constructed trails and walkways is that these routes provide a measure of safety to users and protection of fragile resources. However, certain areas of the park including wetlands are extremely fragile and subject to rapid erosion when rolled over by deeply treaded tires. Speed is limited to provide for safety on surfaces not designed for these vehicles and/or to minimize conflicts with other park visitors. Less restrictive measures would result in erosion and damage to natural and cultural features that support vegetation and wildlife, ruins, cultural resources and landscapes.

Golf Cart / Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Closure:

Section 1.5 - 5 Use of Golf Carts or utility terrain vehicles (UTV) - All roadways within the boundaries of the National Monument are closed to the use of golf carts or UTV type vehicles except for those necessary to meet ADA accessibility requirements and FOFR administrative functions.

Determination: 36 CFR designates a golf cart or UTV as a vehicle. A non-registered or registered and properly equipped (brakes, reliable steering apparatus, safe tires, rearview mirror, red reflectorized warning devices in both the front and rear, turn signals, headlights, brake lights, and a windshield) golf cart or UTV may not be operated within the park due to public safety and resource preservation. The utilization of these non-registered or registered golf carts, UTV's mixed with the activities of the park creates the potential hazard of seriously injuring visitors, property damage or impairment of resources. All vehicles are required to stay on designated roadways at all times within the park. These types of vehicles have a tendency to be operated off road creating damage to trails, cultural and natural resources and landscapes, and wetlands. This restriction provides protection for the public and the resources of the park. The exception to this is for on duty trained park employees utilizing them for administrative purposes to accomplish park specific duties and to provide service to meet universal ADA requirements.

Hunting Closures: (See also section Sec. 2.2, Hunting)

Section 1.5 - 6 Hunting is prohibited in all areas of the park, including shorelines.

Determination: The Superintendent is authorized to close areas when and where hunting should not be permitted due to reasons of public safety, administration, fish or wildlife management, or public use and enjoyment. The park receives approximately 250 thousand visitors annually, and hunting and the firing of weapons is not conducive to public safety with that level of visitation. Less restrictive measures would not provide the degree of safety necessary for visitors, or provide for the appropriate separation of conflicting visitor activities.



Section 1.5 - 7 Fishing from the bulkhead boat dock and pier is permitted only when it does not interfere with the safety of the public or with the maneuvering of boats.

Determination: *The primary purpose of the dock at Fort Frederica is the passage of persons to and from boat and shore. Fishing is an appropriate recreational activity so long as it does not interfere with the primary purpose of the dock and pier.*

Bulkhead Dock Closures:

Section 1.5 - 8 The erecting of structures such as tents, canopies, tarps, or any other shelters larger than a beach umbrella are prohibited on the bulkhead dock.

Section 1.5 - 9 The bulkhead dock is restricted to the use of 2 poles per fisherman or 1 pole and 1 cast net.

Determination: *The practice of erecting shelters or actively fishing with more than two poles or one pole and one cast net on the dock in essence blocks off use by other visitors. An expansion of personal space reduces the capacity of the dock to accommodate public use. Furthermore, such structures and additional fishing poles and cast nets create obstacles for visitors departing from vessels, impeding the primary activity for which the pier was established. Less restrictive measures would interfere with the function, mission and administration of the public dock and not provide the degree of protection that visitors expect when visiting the park.*

Use of Unmanned Aircraft Closure:

Section 1.5 - 10 Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Fort Frederica National Monument is prohibited except as approved in writing by the superintendent.

Definition: The term "unmanned aircraft" means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communications links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g. model airplanes, quadcopters, and/or drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

Determination: *The unmanned aircraft is a new park use that affects park resources, staff, and visitors in ways that the National Park Service has yet to identify and analyze.*



It is National Park Service policy to not allow a new park use until a determination has been made that it will not result in unacceptable impacts on park resources and values.

This is an interim policy that will remain in place until the National Park Service develops a Service-wide regulation to address unmanned aircraft.

Objects of this size, configuration, and movement could startle, frighten, and/or disturb wildlife causing disruption of normal feeding, reproduction and nesting behavior. As a result, use of these devices essentially closes and constricts available habitat to nesting and feeding. In addition, these devices could cause a hazard to park visitors using the park.

Less restrictive measures would not provide sufficient protection to wildlife and threatened and endangered species.

Section 1.6 - Permits

A valid permit issued by the Site Manager is required for the following activities consistent with applicable legislation, federal regulations, and administrative policies. (See 36 CFR 1.6 for types of permits)

- (a) Research/specimen collecting; special events; commercial filming/photography; memorialization; public assemblies, youth group camping.
- (b) Groups of 25 or more people participating in First Amendment activities such as distribution and/or sale of printed matter, political speeches, religious services, public demonstrations or assemblies, and collection of signatures for petitions are required to have a permit.

Determination: *Permit systems authorized and issued pursuant to specific regulations in this chapter, except Section 1.5, need not be supported by a written determination unless required by the specific authorizing regulation,{48 FR 30262}.*

Section 2.1 Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archaeological Resources

Section 2.1 - 1 Dead wood which has already fallen to the ground may be collected in the following areas for use as campfire fuel in authorized camping areas:

- (a) Designated living history camp areas.(see map)

Determination: *The removal of dead wood lying on the ground in these areas will have no significant impact on natural resources or natural processes when collected in small amounts for occasional, small*



campfires. Less restrictive measures are not necessary since these are the only areas open to camping activities.

Section 2.1 - 2 Visitors may enter or walk adjacent to historic fortifications, ruins and structures, except for those locations designated as closed by the posting of signs and/or barricades. (See Closures Sec. 1.5-1)

Determination: *The cultural landscape is appropriate for visitors, except for areas which have been closed off for safety purposes or to protect resources from impairment. Less restrictive measures would permit walking on unsafe or unsuitable portions of the fortifications.*

Section 2.1 - 5 The collection of edible berries to include blackberries, dewberries, or other fruits can be gathered up to 1 quart per person for personal consumption.

Section 2.1 - 6 The collection of leaves, pine needles, sweet gum balls, pine cones, nuts and acorns for educational purposes is permitted under the following conditions:

- (a) Persons may collect and keep up to five (5) items of each type specified above, per person, per day. These items may only be collected from the ground after they have been shed from the parent vegetation. None of the items may be picked from live or standing vegetation.
- (b) Persons may collect these items only from developed areas and from the surface of paved roads. Items may not be collected from trails or undeveloped woodlands.

Determination: *The removal of small numbers of shed leaves, acorns, pine cones, etc. from parking lots and picnic areas serves an educational purpose and will have no significant impact on natural resources or natural. Less restrictive measures such as allowing the collecting of large amounts of these items or collecting of living plant parts would conflict with resource protection regulations.*

Section 2.2 Wildlife Protection: (See hunting closure sec. 1.5-6)

- (a) All lands within the jurisdiction of Fort Frederica National Monument are closed to the viewing of wildlife with artificial light.

Determination: *The Superintendent may designate areas when and where hunting is permitted within the park. Less restrictive measures would not provide the degree of safety necessary for visitors, or provide for the appropriate separation of conflicting visitor activities.*

Section 2.3 Fishing: (See also fishing closure section Sec. 1.5-7)



Section 2.3 - 1 Fishing is authorized during open hours of operation at the bulkhead dock area, with the provision that this area may be designated and periods may be established where fishing is not allowed.

Determination: *Due to high visitation throughout the park, for the health and safety of visitors, and the protection of shoreline resources, this type of activity is limited. Less restrictive measures would not provide the degree of safety necessary for visitors or prevent impairment of resources.*

Section 2.10 Camping and Food Storage:

Section 2.10 - 1 Living history camping may be authorized at specific locations.

Determination: *These camps are in conjunction with park sponsored education programs. They present an opportunity to provide a unique visitor experience.*

Section 2.10 - 2 Youth **Group tent camping** is allowed to those who have been issued a permit at designated primitive sites under the following conditions:

- (a) Group camping is limited to a minimum of 10 persons and a maximum of 40 persons at designated sites.
- (b) Group campers may stay no more than 14 days annually, and this limit will be calculated cumulatively during the calendar year, whether camping is in a series of short stays or in a continuous stay.
- (c) The group sites are for tent camping only.
- (d) Vehicles (including trailers) must be parked on designated paved parking areas.
- (e) Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- (f) Campers are not allowed to string lights or other equipment in the trees/vegetation.

Determination: *The above listed conditions provide reasonable access to the youth group camp sites. Limits on the number of nights ensure that organized youth groups have any opportunity to camp and that a small number of groups cannot monopolize the campgrounds. Limitations on the number of people at a site minimize damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the desired characteristics of a National Park Service campground that the visitors are seeking.*



Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities for youth group camping opportunities.

Section 2.11 Picnicking:

Section 2.11 - 1 A designated area with picnic tables is located at the Visitor Center parking lot.

Section 2.11 - 2 The following locations are closed to picnicking:

- (a) The cultural landscape and grounds of Fort Frederica.

Determination: *The cultural landscape and grounds are closed to picnicking so as not to interfere with guided tours or to intrude on the historical character the park strives to maintain. Less restrictive measures would not provide the type of venue for contemplation, education and desired visitor experience.*

Section 2.13 Fires:

Section 2.13 - 1 Fires may be built at the locations indicated below under the following conditions:

- (a) By permit or superintendent's approval, fires may be built at designated sites.
- (b) After being extinguished with water, are to be disposed of by removing burned and unburned material from the area.
- (c) Fires are prohibited in privately owned grills throughout the park.

Determination: *Debris from fires in grills cannot be safely disposed of in the designated picnic area. Due to sensitive urban interface and development surrounding the park, less restrictive measures would not provide the degree of safety to the public and property which is reasonable and expected.*

Section 2.13 - 2 Fire Bans: During periods of drought, as determined below, all open fires within that geographical area of the park are prohibited.

- (a) Open fires are prohibited when the park or a State, county, or municipality, within whose exterior boundaries a District or portion thereof is located, has placed a ban on open fires.



Determination: *During periods of drought, burning embers escaping an open fire have a strong potential to cause wildfires. Open burning at these times creates an unacceptable risk to safety and the resources of the park and its neighbors. Less restrictive measures would not provide the degree of safety to the public, adjacent properties, or the resources of the park.*

Section 2.14 Sanitation and Refuse:

Section 2.14 - 1 The following conditions apply to sanitation and refuse:

- (a) Picnic tables, restrooms, exterior sinks, and faucets, are closed to the cleaning and disposing of fish and fish waste materials.
- (b) In locations designated as open to camping, refuse must be packed out leaving no trace. Pack it in pack it out.
- (c) All trash will be disposed of in a trash can, trash bag, or other container immediately after use. The discarding or piling of trash on the ground with the intention of later picking it up for proper disposal is not permitted.

Determination: *These conditions provide reasonable means for the disposal of waste products without causing unwarranted safety or environmental nuisances. Less restrictive measures would not offer the degree of safety necessary for the protection of the public or the resources, or help maintain the desired characteristics of the park.*

Section 2.16 Horses and Pack Animals:

Section 2.16 - 1 Horses may not be ridden within the park unless permitted through the Superintendent or Manager.

Determination: *Horses may be allowed in conjunction with Living History or other public education programs. Otherwise, horse use is not allowed to avoid visitor use conflicts, ensure the health and safety of visitors and animals, and to prevent impairment of park resources.*

Section 2.51 Public Assemblies, Meetings:

Section 2.51 - 1 Designated locations within the park are available for First Amendment activities such as political speeches, religious services, public demonstrations or assemblies, and collection of signatures for petitions (see map) The following are not available for First Amendment activities:

- (a) The cultural landscapes including fortifications, town site or ruins.



- (b) The interiors of all buildings.

Determination: *The fortifications, town site and ruins are closed to public assembly due to the inherent interference such activities would have on the public and would be contrary to the desired visitor experience and legislation establishing the park. Administrative buildings are closed to public assembly due to the inherent interference such activities would have on the orderly administration and maintenance of the park. Less restrictive measures would interfere with the function, mission and administration of the park, threaten to impair park resources and present potential health and safety issues.*

Section 2.52 Sale or Distribution of Printed Matter:

Section 2.52 - 1 All locations within the Park are available for First Amendment activities such as the sale or distribution of printed matter except for the following:

- (a) The cultural landscapes including fortifications, town site, or ruins.
- (b) The interiors of all buildings.

Determination: *The fortifications, town site and ruins are closed to public assembly due to the inherent interference such activities would have on the public and would be contrary to the desired visitor experience and legislation establishing the park. Administrative buildings are closed to public assembly due to the inherent interference such activities would have on the orderly administration and maintenance of the park. Less restrictive measures would interfere with the function, mission and administration of the Park, threaten to impair park resources and present potential health and safety issues.*

Section 4.0 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

Section 4.21 - Speed Limits:

Section 4.21 - 1 The following speed limits are established for the roads or routes indicated:

- (a) Park Entrance Road: 15mph as posted.

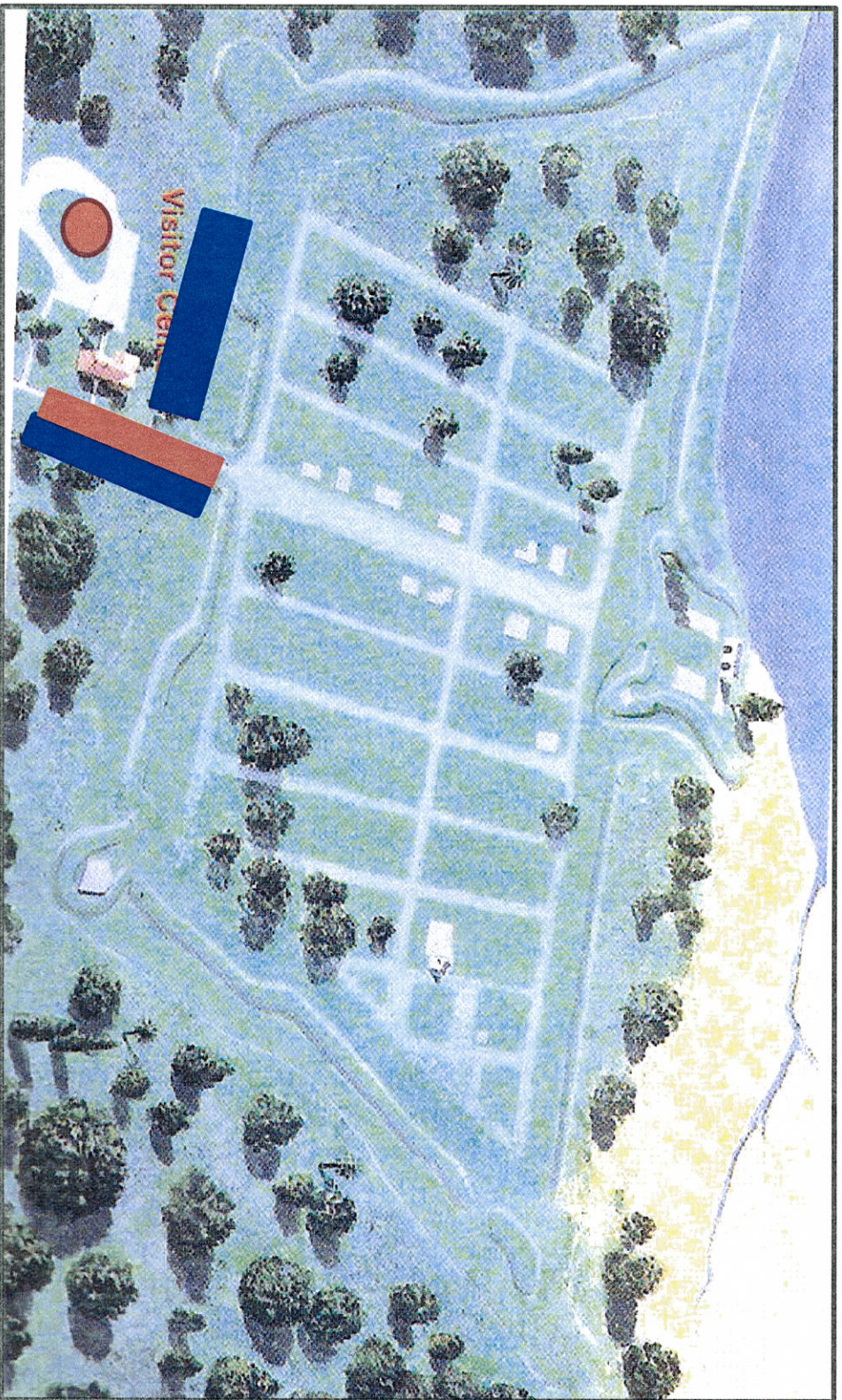
Section 4.30 - Bicycles:

Section 4.30 - 1 Park roads and parking areas are open to the use of bicycles with the exception of the following:



(a) Bicycles are prohibited within the administrative area.

Determination: *Bicycle use in the administrative area creates conflicting use, is not open to recreational use and disrupts administrative functions.*



Fort Frederica National Monument Special Designated Areas



First Amendment Rights Area



Living History Camping Area & First Amendment Rights Area